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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DELAWARE PERSONAL INCOME TAX SEASON BEGINS**

*The Delaware Division of Revenue (DOR) Kicks Off the 2004 Tax Season with the Release and Distribution of This Year's Personal Income Tax (PIT) Returns.*

Statewide – January 14, 2004 – More than 79,000 Delaware residents and 16,000 non-residents were mailed Personal Income Tax Booklets between December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 8<sup>th</sup>, marking the start of the 2004 Delaware state tax season. An additional 320,000 postcard reminders – rather than PIT Booklets – were also mailed to individuals who filed electronic returns or who used tax-preparers last year, reminding them to file their Delaware return.

Although the Delaware DOR mailed Resident and Non-Resident Booklets, as well as postcards this year to anyone who filed PIT returns last year, some Delaware taxpayers may not have received forms and need to obtain their own.

“Those who have recently moved to Delaware, moved to a new home, or recently started working in Delaware but reside in another state, will not receive a PIT Booklet in their mailbox,” says Director Patrick Carter. Instead, DOR has distributed Personal Income Tax Resident and Non-Resident forms to key locations across the state, such as libraries, post offices and several large supermarkets.

**It is important for non-residents who work in Delaware and Delaware residents who work outside Delaware to understand they must obtain and file a Delaware tax return. Delaware does not have reciprocity agreements with any other state.**

The Delaware Division of Revenue will additionally mail 2004 Estimated Tax coupons the first week of February to everyone who filed estimated payments in 2003. Estimated Tax payments are required when the Delaware tax owed, less withholding tax and credits, exceeds \$400. Estimated Tax payments may be debited directly from a

checking or savings account. If paying by check, Form 200-ES must also be remitted. Estimated Taxes can be filed online for convenience and accuracy.

This month, Delaware taxpayers should also receive their W-2 forms stating their earned income for 2003. By law, all W-2s must be received by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Anyone not receiving a W-2 before January 31<sup>st</sup> for any job worked during calendar year 2003 should contact their employer.

Though the deadline for filing state taxes is April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Delaware Division of Revenue recommends not waiting until the last minute. Internet filing began Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and, this year, taxpayers will be allowed to file personal returns for 2001, 2002 and 2003 online at [www.delaware.gov](http://www.delaware.gov). Trained Division of Revenue staff are available at each of our three offices and over the telephone to answer state tax questions. The Division will additionally extend their hours this tax season to assist filers with their Delaware returns.

To check the status of a Refund, taxpayers may access [www.delaware.gov](http://www.delaware.gov) or call our new Touch-tone Refund Status Service at 1-866-276-2353. Both options require a social security number and the exact amount of the refund to access information.

Delaware taxpayers also have the option to file a tax Extension. Filing an extension will allow taxpayers to defer their time to file; however, payments for any tax due must be made on or before April 30<sup>th</sup>. To extend filing in Delaware, remit Delaware Extension Form 1027 on or before April 30<sup>th</sup>. This form will allow taxpayers to extend their filing deadline to August 16, 2004. To extend the Delaware filing deadline beyond August 16, 2004, a copy of federal Extension Form 2688 must be filed with the Delaware Division of Revenue on or before August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Delaware extension will match an approved federal extension, which must be attached to your Delaware return. If filing online for an extension, payments must be made by direct debit.

It is important for taxpayers to know that they are financially liable for any inaccuracies on their Delaware tax returns, even if someone else prepared their return, or their return was completed by a professional tax preparer.

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